

Resentment

Grace Bennet

Resentment depicts myself as I experience increasingly negative emotions. The progression from a sketch to a completed piece links to the idea that emotions manifest themselves in all layers of my personality. They are deeply rooted in my personality and are seen in the coloured exterior. The piece uses a realistic style with expressive line work to capture my emotive expressions. My initial idea was to create a body of work where I would draw students within my school and use art to tell their story. This idea was inspired by my studied artists, Catherine Graffam, Anna Matykiewicz, Kim Hyunji, Philippe Pasqua, Bazévia DelaCapucinière and Ko Byung Jun.

However, as I experimented further, I discovered I connected with telling my own story over that of others. As a result, Resentment expresses my frustration and hurt dealing with unjust treatment and judgement from people around me. I was especially inspired by Catherine Graffam as her works originally depicted her struggle as she transitioned from male to female. Subsequently, her works were emotive and had a lot of meaning and depth that drew me to them. I tried to capture this in my body of work. Line and colour are key elements within my work.

I presented my final piece as floating pages to give a sense of freedom to the work, rather than being 'framed'. This related to the idea of emotions not being bound together as they are different and are free to exist in their own ways. I chose to use watercolour and pencil, with flecks of metallic leaf; the pencil enabled me to draw quickly and freely, while the watercolour washes allowed me to build up layers of tone that depict the gradual build-up of emotion. Metallic leaf added a reflective surface to the piece that caught the eye and connected the pieces with each other.

The work is more effective as a series due to the repetition of imagery that reinforces the idea of progression and building up of emotion. I am extremely satisfied and happy with my final work as it effectively captured my original intention. I feel proud and accomplished when I look at the work as it is also visual evidence of my improvement within my folio of work. When creating the work, I found I was quite prolific with my drawings, and I had to use a critical eye to determine which pieces would make it into the final work. This was a challenge I overcame by experimenting with a few different compositions before settling on the progressive grid style layout.

This practical piece allowed me to be more expressive with my artworks and use art as a way to reflect. My art has become more personal because of this, and I feel more connected with my work. I am now more able to recognise the inherent qualities within my artwork, such as my natural use of line and tone.